

# ANZELA



## AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION LAW ASSOCIATION

### Chair's report 2016

2016 has been a very busy and successful one for the New Zealand Chapter of ANZELA. Our membership has continued to grow steadily – including a number of new organisational members, which is great to see. So, too, has the list of those attending our seminars. The final event for 2016 was a workshop run in Invercargill in November at Donovan Primary School in conjunction with the Southland Primary Principals' Association. We had 35 attendees and a very good afternoon with Alan Knowsley and myself, and Lynne Guy and Jane Pridham from NZSTA, presenting on various topics. We are grateful to Peter Hopwood, principal of Donovan Primary School, for hosting and organising this half-day event.

We are always enthusiastic about exploring current issues in education and law with a focus on applying the understanding of these topics in a practical way for those in the workplace.

#### **Finances allow flexibility**

Our financial position continues to improve – again steadily. We have increased revenue over the past few years from membership and seminars and also from the 2016 annual conference in September. ANZELA is a not-for-profit organisation so being in a sound financial position allows us to take initiatives in the education community, knowing we are able to fund worthwhile activities where it may not be possible for these to cover all their own costs.

#### **ANZELA Updates**

We produce quarterly newsletters ("*NZ Update*") and email these to members. They include opinion pieces, information about ANZELA activities such as the annual conference and the local seminars, and notes on relevant recent cases in the High Court, Employment Court, the Teachers Disciplinary Tribunal and the Employment Relations Authority. We have produced four *Updates* in 2016.

#### **2016 Conference**

The highlight of the year, also for the Chapter, and the biggest commitment in terms of time and energy, was the annual conference at Rydges in Auckland on 28-30 September. We exceeded our own expectations in terms of the number of delegates attending and had a very interesting programme. In addition to our three keynote speakers, all of whom were engaging and thought-provoking, we had three streams of papers running throughout the two full days. Added to this were the social events and the chance to meet old friends and make new ones – overall an inspiring, educative and entertaining event. Those who made the conference such a success are too many to name but I do want to thank Jane Battersby and NZLS CLE, the conference organisers, for the splendid job they did. CLE are themselves committed to professional education objectives so we are very fortunate to have had them run the last four NZ conferences – they really know what they are doing.

I also want to acknowledge the ANZELA Chapter committee for their hard work and the three members of the PPTA, Bill Anderson, Bill Harris and Andy Barron, who worked with us not just on the powhiri and poroporoaki but on the wider Maori presence throughout the conference – including waiata after the significant speakers and a waiata practice for the delegates. This reflected our commitment to a bicultural Aotearoa New Zealand

and we were able, despite the global environment that seems to be developing, to show our international visitors the strength and respect that comes from embracing diversity.

### **Keynote speakers**

We were delighted to learn subsequently that the speaker at this year's conference dinner, Dr Farah Palmer, has been appointed to the New Zealand Rugby board. Farah is, after 124 years, its first woman board member. Her history-making appointment follows a stellar rugby career as one of the greatest Black Fern players of all time. She also has a doctorate and is a senior lecturer at Massey University where she has a prominent role in teaching and research in leadership and Maori business.

Honourable Steve Maharey CNZM and Professor Laurence Boulle AM were the two keynote speakers. Steve is the vice chancellor of Massey University. He delivered the Ann Shorten address, an address delivered annually at the ANZELA conference in memory of a long-serving foundation member.

Professor Boulle is a professor of law at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney, and a mediator and consultant to governments on conflict management and dispute systems design. He delivered an address that focused on education dispute resolution – predictable problems and creative responses.

### **Two NZ ANZELA Board members**

As a result of the AGM we now have two directors from New Zealand on the international ANZELA board, Alan Knowsley and myself. We will be attending the directors' meeting in Melbourne in February.

### **Strategic planning day**

The NZ Chapter committee has a think-tank day every year in February-March. On this day we review our situation and plan for the year ahead. It is a valuable time to take stock and rehearse our aims and objectives.

### **The NZ Chapter committee for 2017**

Virginia Goldblatt – Director, University Mediation Service, Massey University, Palmerston North (chair)

Alan Knowsley – partner at Rainey Collins Lawyers, Wellington

Dave Randell – principal of Otumoetai College, Tauranga

David Patten – barrister, mediator, arbitrator, investigator, Wellington

Deborah Brosnahan - principal of Villa Maria College, Christchurch

Gaye Greenwood – senior lecturer in the Faculty of Business & Law at the Auckland University of Technology, Auckland

Kate Shevlan – principal of Orewa College, Auckland

Julia Robertson – Education Council of NZ, Wellington

Rachael Schmidt-McCleave – barrister, Wellington

Rob Gold – NZ School Trustees Association, Wellington

Virginia Goldblatt  
Chair NZ Chapter